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March 13, 1959
12:10 p.m. JMC



TELEPHONE CALL FROM GENERAL GOODPASTER

General Goodpaster telephoned to say that the President had now read the working paper on Berlin and thinks it is an excellent document. He had made two points in connection with it:

(1) Would like to know whether we are discussing something here which Adenauer might not go along with. Goodpaster had told him that in many parts he thought it reflected some ideas advanced in the first place by the Germans who were here in January. Mr. Herter said we have had word from Paris that the Germans seem to be very pleased with our working paper.

(2) In the event we agree that the special meeting of which Mr. Herter is aware might take place, the President wonders whether he might use that paper, in a very exploratory way, asking "What do you think of this kind of idea, etc., etc.?" The President seemed to feel that this gives some basis to make such an exploratory conference substantive, and get some real value from it.

General Goodpaster said the President would like to have these two points considered and receive a reply from us.

Mr. Herter said we would be glad to do so. He added that we had had a curious reaction from Defense. The first part of a letter from Quarles is based on a misunderstanding in that he feels our military posture would be weakened because the whole thing is predicated on not having a reunification of Germany, which, of course, is not true. The second part of the letter indicated greater agreement, but this was a somewhat qualified reaction and Defense is going into it more thoroughly now.

Mr. Herter said he hoped to have Messrs. Murphy and Merchant in to lunch today and they would go over this. We will see that the President gets a reply ~~as soon as possible~~ as soon as possible.

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